

PROMETHEUS  
GAZETTE

24 JANUARY 2007

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

OVERWHELMING  
SUPPORTA WOMAN'S VIEW  
OF TALL AFARWEATHER:  
IT'S WARMER  
H59° L34°

## MAGNUM'S POST

NICKNAMES  
SPECIAL THANK  
YOUSPECIAL POINTS  
OF INTEREST:

- Graham prepares for promotion board in March.
- T & Cruz start watching Lost season 1 the TV series .
- Next VTC 1:00 pm February 4th at the Soldier support center on Bragg
- Leon returns to Marez to work with SSG Golson

## OVERWHELMING SUPPORT

After the responses I received from the first newsletter, it was quite obvious that I would be putting out the newsletter every 2 weeks opposed to monthly. So in short, thank-you all for your kind words and I look forward to keeping you all entertained or at least informed with the goings on of the platoon.

There have been a few very notable events that have occurred since my last writing. One of which is the fact that the platoon has been adopted by the community of Coquina Crossing in Elkton Florida. This was all made possible by Schneider's parents Dennis and Judy who have some very wonderful friends Tom & Kay Green of Coquina. Tom & Kay posted our last newsletter in their community center and as a result their community has offered to help the platoon. That was just

absolutely great news to the platoon, we think it is great that someone cares enough to adopt us.

So if that wasn't enough I was also surprised by the platoon; as for this issue I've had a couple volunteers who would like to take a stab at writing their own column here in the Prometheus giving you there point of view on what its like being here in Tall Afar. They really surprised me with their efforts and emotions they conveyed. Hopefully this will encourage others to write as well.

We were also privileged with Bernie, Williams, & Dice's surprise visit this week when they were able to jump in a convoy and come down to refit. They were all doing good and as lively as ever, especially Williams when you start talking about playing poker... for charity of course though. It was good to see them and actually be able to

sit down and talk to them for awhile as only us four were around.

As things have slowed down for a bit for the platoon we have started working on our projects more. I walked out side today and noticed Cruz and Schneider were hard at it building an inclined sit-up bench to do PT on. Meanwhile T is working on the Tiki bar area where we grill. These guys and gals are really creative and they amaze me each and every day how they overcome the hardships we face here. From the simplest of things to make their life more comfortable here to improving or improvising new equipment. They make me proud each day, and I wouldn't trade them for any others out there.

Enjoy the pictures and thank you all for your support.

~Shane

## NICKNAMES

**SSG Tetreault:** (Cookie) T ate an entire case of Otis Spunkmeyer oatmeal cookies in 2 weeks.

**SPC(P) Cruz:** (Pockets) He lives off of Hot-pockets and refuses to go to chow

**SPC Schneider:** (UPC) ..... don't ask.

**SFC Wells:** (Magnum GT) He has an affliction for Magnum ice cream bars & loves gravy and French fries... hence Gravy Train (GT)

**CPL Graham:** (Pigpen) I believe she has a touch of OCD, she would take 3 showers a day if she could. She hates to be dirty.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

After the last newsletter was sent I discovered through my wife that there was a bit of Christmas still lingering around back in North Carolina at the EOD shop. It seems that Christy West (SSG Bernie's girlfriend) had arranged through her church in Ohio to have gifts delivered to the children of the deployed soldiers of the 18th. It was great to see the smiles she created. We are truly grateful for her generosity and appreciate all that she did for our children.

## NEWS &amp; PICTURES



Standing: Pollard, Wells, Graham, Hausler, Johnston, Tetreault, Kneeling: Schneider & Cruz

## A WOMAN'S VIEW OF TALL AFAR

We thought it would be nice to have an article in the newsletter from a woman's point of view. First, some background, there are about 800 soldiers on FOB Sykes. Only a hand full of them being women, and I'm the only one in the platoon. So I'm sure you can imagine what I'm going through. Someone should've informed someone that there were females in the Army before we got here. Example: I ordered some comfort packets for the guys and myself. When we received them they got a huge box of shaving cream, razors, baby wipes, etc. What did I get in my comfort box though... a huge box of pads. Don't men know that there is much more to women.

This all spawn's from a stigma the army has with women, I have to try ten times harder to prove myself. It helps though when I can drive and shoot better than most of the guys. Don't get me wrong

though there have defiantly been a few obstacles I've had to overcome. Things I didn't think about before, like going to the bathroom. I never thought about it until the other day when we were on our way back to Sykes when my bladder just hit the limit. I found my chance to go when we made an unexpected stop though. So I climb out of my body armor, out of the driver's seat, and move to the back of the armored vehicle. I had to cut the top off of a water bottle and do my business in front of three other people, two of which I didn't know and one of those two had questionable orientation. That was one of the many times I've had to take my femininity and throw it out of the window. I have a feeling it won't be the last. So it's taken some adjusting being around men constantly. I've learned a lot already. One of them being women aren't the only one's who go through PMS. Men have just as many mood swings as women. They're messy, and can be EXTREMELY smelly and think it's funny no matter what. They gossip and chit-chat just like women if not worse. They pick on me like we're in fifth grade and seem to think it's funny to make me mad, because surely they didn't leave out their trash on purpose for me to clean up. You can't help but love them though, and at the end of the day there is no place I would rather be (besides with my kids) than with these guys, standing around a fire watching them smoke their cigars. I thank God every night for keeping us all safe and giving me such a great group of men to be over here with, because no matter how much we drive each other crazy, we're still a family and I would have it no other way. So until next time, keep us in your thought and prayers. ~Cara

**"You can't help but love them though, and at the end of the day there is no place I would rather be (besides with my kids) than with these guys, standing around a fire watching them smoke their cigars"**



## MAGNUM'S CORNER

Hello to all the family and friends of 1<sup>st</sup> Plt. My name is Robert Wells and I am the Platoon Sergeant for all of your loved ones. I plan on writing something related to the Platoon as often as I can. In particular I hope to convey our moments of hilarity fueled by the stress of combat and sometimes by sheer boredom. So with the intro aside I will now attempt to enthrall you with news from Tall Afar.

During one of our recent meetings with the Iraqi Army Bomb Disposal Company (IABDC) to discuss joint operations and training LT and I were invited to a party in our honor. I was overjoyed at the idea and was quick to accept. Colonel Jasmine asked if we would like fish for the dinner. Instantly pictures of fishing on the Wando River just outside of Charleston, SC came to mind. I could taste a fresh

Spot tail caught only a couple of hours earlier. Before LT could think of a reason not to have fish I uttered an overjoyed "Yes!" We ended the meeting and agreed on dinner the next week. As soon as LT and I were alone he clued me in to my mistake. LT has spent a lot of time in Iraq and seen the lakes and rivers and unfortunately at times had to go into them. The Euphrates and Tigris rivers aren't the grand waterways once described in ancient tales.

They are now clogged with sewage and garbage. We are about as far as you can get from the sea or ocean and still be in Iraq so I don't think the fish will be coming from there. It is with a weak stomach and a case of Imodium AD that we will attend the festivities hoping for the best but prepared for the worst. Especially since we now know that the fish has been sitting in the refrigerator for a week, as

our schedule has forced us to change the party date twice.

That's all the news that's fit to print this month. Hopefully someone other than me will do something very foolish before the next issue. I'd hate to bore you with another food section based on the wonderful chow hall or my attempt to entertain the platoon. I invite you to contact me anytime you have a questions or concerns regarding your Soldier or the Army. My email address is [eodrob96@yahoo.com](mailto:eodrob96@yahoo.com).

Fact of the issue: Did you know that it is believed the ancient Sumerians in what is now Iraq invented the wheel?



Magnum GT

**"Before LT could think of a reason not to have fish I uttered an overjoyed "Yes!" We ended the meeting and agreed on dinner the next week"**

## TEAM PICTURES



T making some home improvements



TM 3 Enjoying the Non-alcohol "Silver bullet"



## TEAM PICTURES



TM 3 Feasting @ Heider



Hausler & Leon out on Mission



Going for a run..... Iraqi's in training



Dice & Williams prepping a demo shot.



T & Cruz working on the Robots



Schneider making friends



### OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

Mail any correspondence to:

Soldier's Name

18th EOD

FOB Sykes, Iraq

Or email:

slpeod@yahoo.com